

700 East Construction Scheduled to Start Winter 2009-2010

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) is preparing to begin roadway reconstruction along 700 East from 11400 South to Carnation Drive and the 12300 South intersection. In the area between 12300 South and 11400 South the roadway will be resurfaced. The reconstruction of 700 East will improve roadway safety and the flow of traffic for residents, businesses, and recreational users.

Construction is anticipated to begin Winter 2009-2010 which will include construction on canals and utilities outside the roadway with work on the road itself beginning Spring 2010. The components of the reconstruction include:

- Additional traffic lanes
- Bicycle lanes
- Shoulders
- Sidewalks
- Medians at intersections
- Two-way center turn lanes between intersections
- Six-foot noise walls between Larkspur Drive and Carnation Drive (10345-10106 South)
- Replacement of existing concrete fence throughout the corridor
- Retaining walls in some locations
- Improved drainage conditions



Visit the project Web site (www.udot.utah.gov/700east) for additional information about design improvements and the planned typical roadway section.

Property Acquisition Progress

This reconstruction project requires purchasing small portions of property (or strip takes) and temporary construction easements along the construction corridor. As of July 2009, UDOT has purchased approximately 25 percent of the property needed for the reconstruction. Property acquisition agents are meeting with property owners individually on an on-going basis. Each property acquisition and easement is handled on a case-by-case basis specific to the impacted parcel. The property acquisition process is expected to be substantially complete by late Fall 2009. Please contact Kimberly O'Reilly at (801) 965-4742 if you have any questions about the right of way process.

Raised Medians

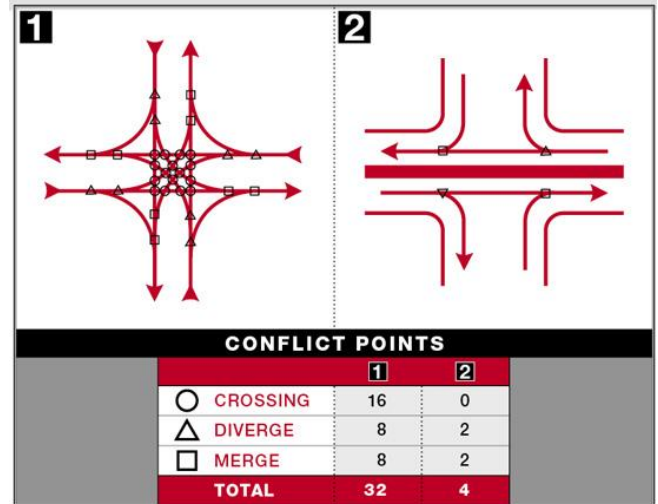
The Facts

Definition:

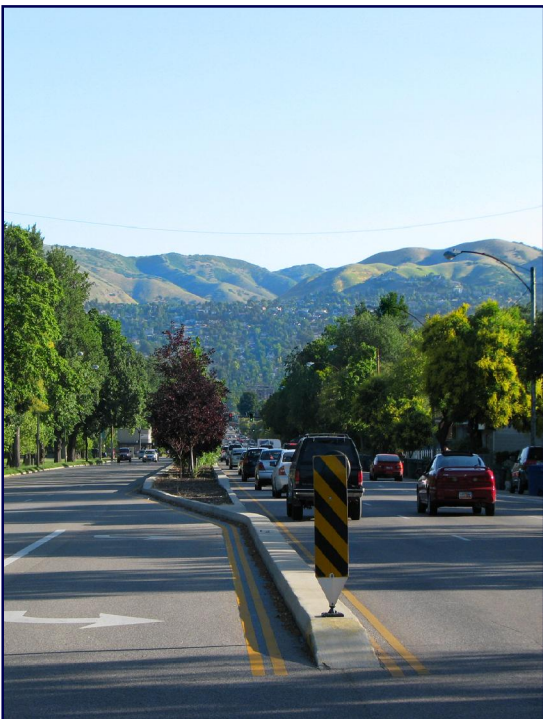
A physical barrier in a roadway designed to safely separate traffic traveling in opposite directions. Raised medians are usually concrete formed to create a curb. Median islands (see photo below) are bounded by curbing, and island interiors may be landscaped.

Purpose:

UDOT uses medians to keep traffic moving and drivers safe. Studies have shown medians lower accident rates and severity and improve mobility by reducing vehicle conflict points (see diagram at right). Raised medians are typically installed at high-accident locations or where left turns need to be limited for safety or traffic flow purposes. Medians are commonly used to enhance traffic efficiency in high-volume areas, at major intersections, and on multi-lane roads. Although there may be a learning curve for motorists after a new median is installed, research indicates that the presence of raised medians does not adversely affect businesses.



Installing medians reduces the number of conflict points. This significantly reduces the potential for accidents. *Graphic reference: <http://tti.tamu.edu>*



Criteria for Installation:

In many cases, the decision to install medians is nearly automatic based on specific design criteria, including traffic volumes, accident data and growth projections. Where medians will improve safety and mobility, UDOT has a public obligation to install them since this translates into saved lives and improved quality of life for Utah's citizens.

Typical Median Locations:

- All legs of major or high-volume intersections
- High-accident areas as demonstrated by accident data
- Multi-lane, multi-access highways

To Learn More:

UDOT is committed to being responsive to public concerns and questions. If you'd like additional information about medians, please contact Amalia Deslis (801-448-2188) or a project representative with whom you've been working.

Raised Medians

Along 700 East

Where are the raised medians being built?

Raised medians will be built at the following intersections along 700 East:

- 12300 South
- 11400 South
- 11000 South
- 10600 South



How will raised medians change access to businesses and neighborhoods along 700 East?

- Access to businesses and neighborhoods near any of the above intersections will be channeled to right-turns in and right-turns out only.
- U-turns will be permitted at the above intersections.
- U-turns will also be permitted anywhere after a median ends.

What benefits do raised medians have?

- Provide a safer environment for auto and pedestrian traffic.
- Help move traffic more efficiently.
- Reduce traffic congestion.

Upcoming Events

Business Workshop

- Late Summer 2009

Meet the Contractor Public Open House

- Early Fall 2009

Pre-Project Utility Work

Utility relocation work is underway and will continue throughout the project area ahead of UDOT's roadway project. Motorists should expect some minor delays associated with this work.



700 East

12300 South to Carnation Drive

July 2009



Stay Informed

You can be added to our project update list by sending an email to the project team.

Once construction begins, we will send out regular email updates with information related to construction schedule, progress, and other important issues.

Phone: (801) 448-2188

Email: 700east@utah.gov

Website: www.udot.utah.gov/700east

Be Involved

A Community Coordination Team (CCT) will be formed to evaluate the contractor during construction and help keep the public informed. If you are interested in participating on the CCT, please contact the project team at 700east@utah.gov or (801) 448-2188. To keep the committee manageable, the project team will select a representative committee from those citizens who express interest.

Project Schedule

Late-Summer 2009
Project out to bid



Fall 2009
Contract awarded



Winter 2009-2010
Begin work



Fall 2010
Finish Construction